

RING SPOT OF AFRICAN VIOLET

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African violet (*Saintpaulia ionantha* Wendl.) is one of the most popular flowering house plants. It is well suited to the average home environment preferring a relative humidity of 40-60% and a temperature of 65-80° F (3). It, and other gesneriads, are sensitive to ring spot or water induced leaf spotting (2).

SYMPTOMS. Bright yellow rings appear on the dark green foliage, suggesting a virus ring spot pattern (Fig. 1). The temperature differential between the leaf tissue and the water causes a collapse of cell walls creating the pattern (1).

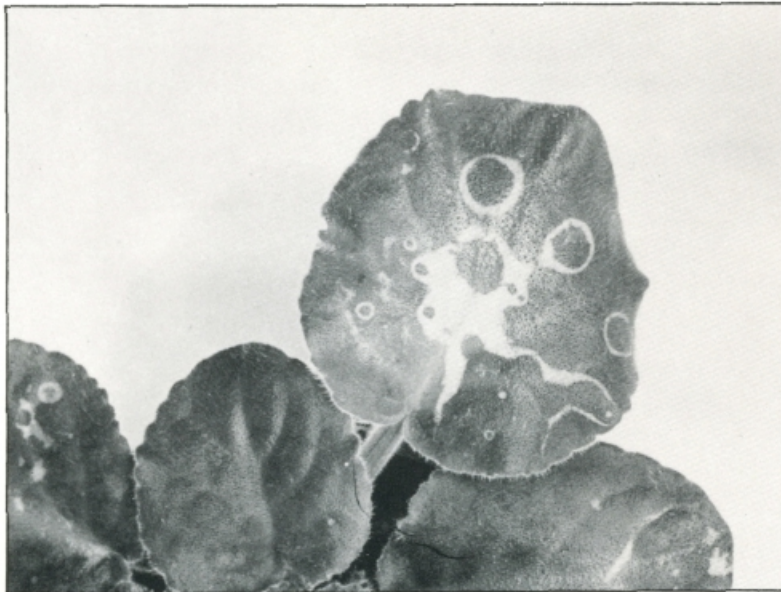


Fig. 1. African violet leaf showing characteristic ring patterns of water induced leaf spotting. (DPI Photo No. 87011)

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TREATMENT. This abiotic disease occurs after african violets receive cold overhead watering. Using watering techniques which keep leaves dry will eliminate the problem. Room temperature water should not cause ring spotting on gesneriad foliage, although it should be noted that warm water applied to a cool leaf may induce similar symptoms (1).

SURVEY & DETECTION. Look for bright yellow to nearly white ring patterns on leaves.

LITERATURE CITED

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